

Kennecott
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M/055/002

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AUG 03 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

Kennecott

July 30, 1992

Mr. Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director, Division of Water Quality
288 North 1460 West
P.O. Box 16690
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-0690

Re: Diving Board Tailings Area Modernization

Dear Mr. Ostler:

Consistent with past operational practices, Kennecott Utah Copper (KUC) will be constructing a series of stepback dike raises of the existing Tailings Impoundment over the next 12-18 months. In conjunction with these activities utilization of material from the "Diving Board Tailings Area" is also planned. To keep your Division apprised of our operations we are providing the following project narrative and attached drawings for your information.

OVERVIEW

In constructing the next series of stepback dike raises an estimated 400,000 cubic yards of tailings material will ultimately be excavated from the Diving Board Area. The Diving Board Area is located south of Kennecott's Tailings Impoundment and consists of a north and south earthen impoundment and associated structures covering an area of approximately 30 acres.

The construction of the next stepback will utilize approximately 200,000 cubic yards of material. Construction will commence in early August and run through late September 1992. In October and November, 1992, a concrete basin will be constructed in a portion of the excavated Diving Board Area. This concrete holding basin will be used for future tailings management.

During May through July, 1993, construction of another stepback dike using approximately 150,000 to 200,000 cubic yards of material from the Diving Board Area is planned. If any material remains in the Diving Board Area after construction of this stepback, it will be transferred to the Tailings Impoundment. When the material has been removed completely, the Diving Board Tailings Area will be graded and

reclaimed during the third and fourth quarters of 1993.

DIVING BOARD TAILINGS AREA MODERNIZATION NARRATIVE

Modernization of tailings management in the Diving Board Tailings Area will be accomplished through construction of a concrete holding basin which will replace the north and south earthen impoundments. This structure is designed to retain anticipated tailings discharges resulting from both scheduled and unscheduled shutdowns of the Magna tailings pump. Interruptions to the operation of the Magna tailings pump requires emptying of the pipeline that transfers tailings from the North Concentrator to the Tailings Impoundment. The pipeline is drained at the Magna Pump House, the low point in the line, and the resulting tailings slurry is discharged through a concrete pipe to the Diving Board Tailings Area. To date, a concrete junction box at the west end of the Diving Board Tailings Area has diverted the tailings to either the north or south impoundment. The new concrete holding basin will be constructed on the west end of the south impoundment. The concrete pipe from the Magna Pump House will discharge to this sedimentation/detention basin.

The new concrete basin will retain up to 15,000 cubic yards of tailings material. This capacity will be sufficient to contain an estimated six months of tailings discharge. When the holding basin is determined to be nearing capacity, tailings will be removed by a loader and dump truck and hauled to the Tailings Impoundment.

The concrete basin will measure 250 ft. long by 150 ft. wide with 3:1 side slopes. The concrete work shall conform to all applicable codes and will be built with water stop and joint sealant.

A weir will be constructed to decant the liquid fraction of the tailings material from the concrete basin and direct it via a pipeline to the Kennecott clarification canal for use in operations. There will be no point source discharge of process wastewater from this structure. The concrete impoundment will not contain standing water except during times of inclement weather and immediately following pump shutdowns.

The area outside the concrete surface impoundment will be graded to form a naturally appearing basin and revegetated. This basin will compliment our overall water management program and will be sufficient to contain at least a 10 year, 24-hour storm event. Sediment accumulations will be removed from this area to maintain storm water containment capacity. In the event that accumulated storm water is pumped out of this basin, it will be directed to the Kennecott clarification canal for use in operations.

It is our understanding that no groundwater discharge permit is required for flood control systems which includes detention basins and catch basins used for collecting or conveying storm water runoff.

KUC has discussed the Diving Board area with the US Army Corps of Engineers in regard to potential wetlands in this vicinity. Utilization of the Diving Board Tailings material for stepback dike construction will avoid jurisdictional wetlands pursuant to these discussions.

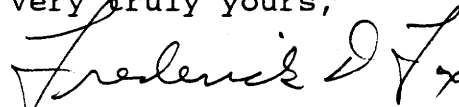
In addition to operational activities discussed above, the existing discharge flume of the Utah Salt Lake Canal will be modified to provide better water management.

A site plan for the use of the Diving Board Tailings material, as well as construction of the concrete holding basin is included in the attached DIVING BOARD AREA SEDIMENTATION/DETENTION SITE LAYOUT PLAN

Although it is our understanding that these operational modifications and upgrades to existing facilities do not require permits, Kennecott believes that it is important to communicate its plans with interested agencies.

If you have any questions or comments in regard to this project please contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frederick D. Fox", written in dark ink.

Frederick D. Fox

cc. R.K. Davey
P. Chiaro
B. Dunne
E. Hoffman (EPA)
H. Sheppard (DOGM)
M. Schwinn (COE)

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